



## Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways District 9

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### **Engineering scholarships provide career path for northeastern Kentucky students**

*Mattie Conley, Kristian Conway most recent recipients*

FLEMINGSBURG, Ky. – Given his math talent and family’s construction background, Kristian Conway’s decision to pursue an engineering career wasn’t a hard one.

“I wanted to do something I was good at and I wanted to be working on construction projects, so I kind of just put it together,” said Conway, who’s now enrolled at the University of Louisville.

Math was something that also inspired Mattie Conley’s engineering career choice, too, even before she graduated from Boyd County High School two years ago and entered the University of Kentucky civil engineering program.

“I like the creativity it takes,” Conley said. “In math, it’s up to you to figure it out, and of course I like being the one who finds the right answers.”

Now, as two of the newest recipients of a full scholarship from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the students have years of construction projects and math problems ahead of them.

The scholarship, awarded to new high school graduates or current university students pursuing engineering degrees, not only pays for tuition and other educational costs but also comes with summer employment and a promise of a full-time engineering job with the Transportation Cabinet after college.

Conway and Conley are two of five scholarship students employed by Kentucky Department of Highways District 9 in northeastern Kentucky.

Working alongside engineers and technicians from the district’s Grayson section office, Conway has spent the summer inspecting construction projects – such as the building of a new Little Sandy River bridge in downtown Greenup – and lending oversight to concrete and paving work throughout the region. Conley has been working similar jobs out of the

highway district's Ashland section office. Both said the scholarship marks the true beginning of their career, and expressed gratitude to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the opportunity and support it provides.



*Kristian Conway of Lewis County, above, and Mattie Conley of Boyd County, below, at work on Kentucky Transportation Cabinet projects this summer.*



## **CIVIL ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP**

Since 1948, the Transportation Cabinet has offered the Civil Engineering Scholarship Program to students interested in pursuing bachelor's degrees in civil engineering at the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University. The program also allows students of Kentucky State University and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) to take pre-engineering courses en route to a bachelor's degree at one of the three larger universities.

Each year, the cabinet awards 10 to 20 new scholarships based on performance in high school, ACT scores, aptitude in math and science and an interest in engineering as a career. To date, nearly 1,700 scholarships worth millions of dollars in financial aid to aspiring engineers have been awarded. There are about 80 scholarship openings each year, which are filled with returning and new students. The scholarship's total value is around \$44,000 for four years of study. Scholarship students agree to work for a year for the cabinet for every year they receive the award. More information, applications, qualifications and guidelines can be found online at [www.transportation.ky.gov/scholarship](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/scholarship).

## **ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Transportation Cabinet also awards scholarships for students to pursue civil engineering technology degrees at Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington and Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg.

The Civil Engineering Technology Scholarship Program will prepare students for work with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet upon graduation. Each scholarship student will receive \$2,500 per semester toward an associate's degree in civil engineering technology from the Prestonsburg or Lexington KCTCS campuses. Scholarship students agree to work for a year for the cabinet for every year they receive the award.

Applications, qualifications and guidelines can also be found online at [www.transportation.ky.gov/scholarship](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/scholarship).

## **THE 'KEEN' PROGRAM**

Also, to boost student "exposure" to the engineering profession, the Transportation Cabinet offers the Kentucky Engineering Exposure Network – through which highway engineers visit schools to discuss applications of math and science in daily life and the opportunities and challenges presented in the field of engineering.

To invite an engineer to your classroom in Bath, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Nicholas or Rowan counties, contact Allen Blair at the Department of Highways District 9 office via email [allen.blair@ky.gov](mailto:allen.blair@ky.gov) or by calling (606) 845-2551.